

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF
ELGIN, IL

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. First, to congratulate Money Magazine on its 25th anniversary, but also to commend the magazine for adopting the city of Elgin, IL and beginning a year-long project to enhance the personal-finance knowledge of the city's residents.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Elgin, in my 14th District of Illinois, was chosen for this project because it is truly a microcosm of our Nation. A city with an industrial heritage that has seen a surge in suburban growth in recent years, Elgin is also home to several of the Nation's largest firms which have experienced strong export sales growth.

In the coming year, Money Magazine, in conjunction with Elgin Community College, will provide free financial seminars for Elgin residents. In addition, a dozen Elgin families will be highlighted in a series of articles dealing with family financial concerns and innovative ways of addressing those concerns. The project kicks off on January 29, 1997 with a ceremony at Elgin High School, to be attended by former President and Mrs. George Bush.

It is significant to note that while Money Magazine could have celebrated its 25th anniversary quietly, and without fanfare, the publisher and editors of the magazine have instead decided to mark this occasion by assisting this community and its residents with their financial planning. This action deserves our commendation and our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the city of Elgin, its citizens, and civic and business leaders, on its selection for this worthy project. Elgin is an outstanding community, and one I am proud to represent in this House.

LOOKING TO THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today, I officially became the chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere of the International Relations Committee. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, on the subcommittee as we begin a very exciting and challenging period in which we will review our relations with our partners in the hemisphere.

The end of the cold war and the movement toward democracy and economic reform in Russia and central Europe held great promise that the world would enter a period free of superpower rivalry, a lowering of the nuclear threat, and an all-around feeling that peace and political stability would prevail throughout the world.

Despite the expectations that evolutionary changes in Europe would serve as a model for a greater global commitment to open societies, the promotion of democracy, and the development of strong economies and mar-

kets, the international environment remains as complex and as dangerous as ever.

United States foreign policy continues to face complex and ever changing challenges from Bosnia to China, from terrorism to the stability of the global economy, from Palestine to Northern Ireland.

But while U.S. policymakers within the administration and the Congress struggle to resolve the most difficult and dangerous of these issues, we are ignoring one of the most dramatic success stories of the post-cold war period. And the irony of it all, is that this transition is taking place right in our own backyard of the Western Hemisphere.

The evolution of the nations of Latin America to democratic governments, market economies, and open societies has been perhaps the most overlooked event since the fall of the Berlin wall.

Despite the direct impact events in Latin America have on the United States in terms of trade, narcotics trafficking, and immigration, U.S. policymakers, including the Congress, have often, although not entirely, turned an uninterested eye south of our borders and have failed to take advantage of the enormous potential for peace, political stability, and economic opportunity these changes are bringing about.

The resolution of the crisis in Haiti, the recent peaceful elections in Nicaragua, and the signing of the peace accords in Guatemala, ending 35 years of confrontation, clearly argues that the transition to peace, cooperation, and the democratization of the entire hemisphere, although sometimes rocky, is in its final stages. The economic miracles taking place in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile are a credit to the genuine commitment of those governments and peoples to take their place as regional role models.

Unfortunately, these stories are going largely unnoticed and unappreciated in the United States.

Latin America is a success story which the United States should be celebrating by pursuing a more engaged foreign policy designed to support the peace process, promote continued political stability, renew old friendships, cultivate new ones, and lend strong support to regional economic development and free market economies.

Like many, though, I fear that the momentum achieved thus far by the nations of Latin America could be stalled unless the United States reenergizes its efforts to provide strong leadership throughout the region. Confronting no major conflict or problem in the region, U.S. policy seems to lack clarity or coherence which could lead to a further decline in our ability to influence events in the region.

There can be no doubt that economic growth in the region is the key to strengthening democracy, ensuring long-term political stability, and reducing poverty. The 1994 Summit of the Americas held great promise for the critical areas of trade and economic development. The momentum created there must be renewed and sustained.

But leadership requires a better knowledge and understanding of the nations of the hemisphere and the great strides made thus far. U.S. policy must look forward and should be based, not on what has happened in the past, but what can happen in the future if we work with the nations of the hemisphere in a cooperative partnership to strengthen democracy,

implement economic development policies, encourage free trade, and to make a renewed commitment to civilian authority, human rights, and social justice.

This is not to say that all is well in the hemisphere. Linger problems associated with drugs, illegal immigration political corruption, arms competition, and the strength of the peso, temper the euphoria of the success story. Beyond those endemic problems, which must be addressed primarily by the nations of Latin America themselves, nagging questions arise regarding the future of the new democracies, NAFTA, fast track, and Cuba. Also, to a lesser, but nevertheless important degree to many in the United States are issues regarding intellectual property, patent, and copyright violations, the environment and labor standards which must be addressed.

The foreign policy agenda for the Western Hemisphere is large and laden with both promise and problems. And while these issues may not seem as important as issues facing this Nation elsewhere, I believe we would be making a tremendous mistake if we did not take advantage of the positive signs and events emerging from the hemisphere by actively engaging our neighbors to the south in a renewed partnership for peace, stability, and economic development.

This will be the thrust of the subcommittee's work and I look forward to getting on with the job.

TRIBUTE TO KENT SWANSON, JR.

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a heroic young man whose life ended tragically and prematurely, Kent Swanson, Jr.

Kent Swanson was raised in Phoenix, MD, where his parents still live, and graduated in 1989 from Dulaney High School in Cockeysville. He attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR, receiving a degree in biology in 1995.

Kent had a lifelong love of the outdoors. Upon graduating from high school, Kent travelled to the Andes, where he climbed his first 20,000 foot mountain. His experiences in the majestic Pacific Northwest, however, defined the course of his life.

While in college, Kent joined the Portland Mountain Rescue Squad. This enabled him to use his love of the mountains to help others. He used his skills, his good judgement, and his intimate knowledge of the often treacherous mountain terrain to rescue skiers and climbers lost or stranded in the mountains.

On one occasion, Kent and his team braved freezing rain to reach three stranded colleagues. Such acts of heroism became routine in Kent's life. While a member of the ski patrol of Mammoth Mountain, a popular resort near Los Angeles that handles 15,000 skiers a day, he personally treated or rescued an estimated 3,000 injured skiers during one season.

Kent was known for his expertise as a mountain climber as well as for his bravery. He spent his summers working at the American Alpine Institute in California, where he developed a guide and instruction manual for the

14,494-foot Mount Whitney. "He had all the qualities that go into making a great teacher and guide," one of his supervisors said. "His clients liked him because of his teaching skills and his wonderful companionship."

On January 11, Kent Swanson, Jr. died in a helicopter crash in British Columbia. Typically, Kent was en route to an avalanche rescue class. This young man died as he lived—a hero.

He leaves behind his parents, Kent Sr. and Tricia Swanson; his maternal grandfather, Robert A. Bishton; and host of aunts, uncles, and cousins. He also leaves behind a lot of people who might not be alive today without his heroic efforts. My sympathy goes out to the Swanson family during this sad time. As they mourn his death, I hope they will take pride in his life.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR H. BILGER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arthur H. Bilger for his great contributions to the nonprofit House of Justice of Bet Tzedek Legal Services of Los Angeles.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services is one of the leading poverty law centers in the country. Thousands of indigent, elderly, and disabled individuals benefit each year from the free legal services provided at Bet Tzedek's headquarters in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles, the Valley Rights project in North Hollywood, and the 32 senior centers throughout the Los Angeles area. Bet Tzedek is open to all who pass through its doors and even makes house calls to the ill and frail. Its services are vital and they are not otherwise readily available to those who need them.

Arthur H. Bilger has been a constant believer in Bet Tzedek's mission to be a place of refuge and assistance to Los Angeles' most needy residents. As one of the most dedicated and successful fundraisers for Bet Tzedek, his efforts have allowed this generous organization to continue to operate at full capacity while maintaining its promise of services at no cost to its clientele. We owe Arthur H. Bilger a debt of gratitude for his vision, his devotion, and his support of this most worthy cause.

I am delighted to bring Mr. Bilger's tireless and selfless work on behalf of Bet Tzedek Legal Services to the attention of my colleagues and ask you to join me saluting him for his many important contributions.

VISCLOSKY HONORS RESIDENTS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today, and we reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty.

Dr. King's life, and unfortunately his vicious murder, remind us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight, to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in that battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in many of the citizens in communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, I would like to recognize several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District, who, in the past year and in their own ways have, have acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

Mr. Jack Parton, director of the United Steelworkers of America, District 7, Mr. Eric Mason and Mr. Michael Krueger, both graduates of Portage High School, led a prodiversity rally in Portage, IN, last May to peacefully, but forcefully, counter a march by the Ku Klux Klan. Their efforts sent a strong and clear message to members of the KKK, as well as members of our communities and citizens throughout the country, that ethnic, racial, and religious hatred will not be tolerated. The counter-rally that they developed and carried out was an overwhelming success. It generated enormous support from religious, labor, business, and civic groups throughout the region. The courage of these men should be held up as an example to all that, through thoughtful, united action, the values of human rights that we all cherish can—and must—be maintained, even in the face of ignorance and hatred.

I would also like to recognize Janee Bryant, Brandon Crayton, Brandie Frith, LaKisha Girder, Damara Hamlin, Markika Harris, Rasheedah Jackson, Leah Johnson, Jacleen Joiner, Ayashia Muhammad, Clinton Pearson, Kala Simmons, Sheria Smith, David Suggs, DeKeyur Summer, Jennifer Thompson, Stephanie Thompson, Courtney Williams, and Joey Willis.

These outstanding individuals are the members of the Tolleston Junior High School team, which won the Indiana State Bowl Championship in spelling. This wonderful accomplishment is a reflection of their hard work and dedication to study. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the State. They have brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their communities. Their success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of their teacher-coaches, Mrs. Margaret Hymes, Mrs. Paula Thompson, Mrs. Sandra V. Alfred, Ms. Dionne Moore, Mrs. Janice L. Williams, and Mrs. Juanita Vincent. The Tolleston students, who won the State Bowl Championship in spelling, as well as their gifted teachers, deserve recognition as true role models in our State.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all of these individuals reflects many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed and the values he espoused. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They had goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, resolve, and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the residents of Tabernacle Township, NJ at the time of their second annual Tabernacle Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

It would be difficult to name, in the context of this extension of remarks, all those worthwhile organizations whose members are being honored. That one community supports such a myriad of organizations, which run the gamut from religious, civic, athletic, public safety, educational, community support, and political groups, is testament to its citizens.

On February 2, 1997, special recognition will be given to the Tabernacle Township PTA, Inc. at the time of its 75th anniversary. This association of parents and educators has been active in local schools since 1921. Through its provision of books, school equipment, scholarships, family activities, after-school child care, and summer recreation programs, this organization has proven its worth for three-quarters of a century—quite an achievement.

I extend my congratulations to the PTA's members, past and present, as well as to the many selfless volunteers who will be honored for their commitment to their community.

They deserve our praise and thanks.

HOMELESS IN THE HEART

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an essay written by a constituent of mine that illustrates the best of the human spirit. Torin Rea, his mother, and his younger brother found themselves homeless and living in a shelter in my hometown of Santa Barbara when he was in his teens. But instead of giving up, he and his family worked hard to make a better life for themselves.

Torin's eloquent and moving essay details his struggle of dealing with the horrible toll homelessness can take on a family. But more importantly, he describes how, faced with adversity, a family can pull together and overcome even the toughest times, becoming even closer in the process.

When the word homeless is mentioned, one quickly pictures a poor soul huddled in a box, eating the few scraps of food they can find. Or a person too mentally imbalanced to lead a productive life in society, wandering down the street babbling in words only he or she can understand. In Jo Goodwin Parker's short story, "What is Poverty?", Parker tells her graphic and incisive experience with homelessness. She accounts the times when she had nothing to eat for herself, only her children. The hard nights on the street with the cold biting at her side, with no ability to warm herself, she curls up with her children in a cardboard box. The painful feeling of not being able to feed her children runs deep into the heart. This mother had no means of supporting herself or her children, but she valiantly continues to mother them in the best